

EXHIBIT 3
2/15/07
S34

Fax

To: MT House Judiciary Committee

From: Henry Dion

Fax:

Pages: 2 including cover sheet

Phone: 406-635-4907

Date: 2/14/2007

Re: HB 534

CC:

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**Please distribute to Montana House of
Representatives House Judiciary Committee before
8:00 am Thursday February 15th 2007.**

Thank You

House Judiciary Committee Members
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: OPPOSITION TO HB534

Dear Madame Chairperson, Members of the Committee:

My name is Chad Braden and I live in Glendive Montana. I do not believe that a mandatory helmet law would do Montana any good. States with helmet laws have more accidents than states without. To me, this shows that there is a problem with the helmets. Whether it is false security, or loss of sight and hearing that come with helmets is unknown to me but the numbers remain the same. Montana already has a helmet law for minors under the age of 18. I think we should be looking at education programs that promote proper riding and safety, which will cut down on accidents. I have participated in a motorcycle safety class conducted by MSU Havre, and found it very enlightening. I think classes like this should be taught along with driver's education in high school. Education is the key to safer roads for all vehicles. Please don't discourage the use of these fuel-efficient machines with unneeded legislation. Please stop this bill.

Respectfully,

Chad Braden

Please distribute to the
House Judiciary Committee Members
by 8:00 AM Feb 15 2007.

Thank you,
Chad

House Judiciary Committee Members
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Feb 14th 2007

RE: OPPOSITION TO HB534

Dear Madame Chairperson, Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Henry Jackson Dion and my address is PO Box 73 Terry, Montana 59349. Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony and please accept my apologies for not being there in person today.

I have several points to make here and I will try to do so as quickly as possible as I am sure you are very busy. I live on a farm outside of Terry, Montana where we grow crops and also feed cattle. Quadricycles, or 4-wheelers are used extensively in both of these operations and I don't believe there is a need for mandatory helmets among adults. As you know, summers are very hot in Montana, when working in the fields or irrigating it is not feasible to wear a helmet. I am traveling at very low speed and for very short distances. I would have to put a helmet on and remove it approximately 25 times a day!!! When working cattle with a 4-wheeler, a helmet is a hindrance. You lose half of your peripheral vision and most of your hearing, communication is key in any successful operation.

I also ride motorcycles on Montana highways for transportation. Rising fuel costs has forced me to look into fuel saving opportunities, as it has others, as the number of registered Motorcyclist will show. I CHOOSE to wear a helmet most of the time. This should remain my choice, as my life should be mine to spend as I see fit. I believe ironic is an understatement in the idea that the people pushing this bill will fight for freedom of choice for a woman but not for a motorcyclist. Or perhaps that is hypocrisy.

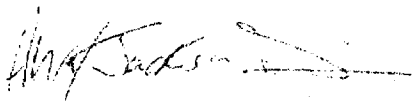
I also have some concerns with the helmet itself. What exactly is a helmet for starters? Will an old football helmet work, or a hardhat perhaps. The hardhat would be ok for working on the 4 wheeler; I could wear it all the time.

My research on helmets has turned up some pretty grim realizations, such as:

- ❖ If a helmet is dropped from more than 3 feet it is to be replaced at once. 3FEET!!! That does not sound like protection I would invest in, my head still works after a drop from 3 feet.
- ❖ Helmets need to be replaced every so many years according to the manufacture's specs because damage from the sun deteriorates the helmets packing.
- ❖ Helmets Cause as many spine injuries as they save head injuries.

The medical costs used so far promoting this bill are misleading. They assume that all motorcyclist do not carry any insurance, I find that to be the contrary. States with mandatory helmet laws have MORE accidents than free choice states. The fiscal note must be some kind of joke. If Montana has a helmet law, the highway patrol won't give out any tickets, why would they assume we would break the law? I could go on forever with valid reasons to oppose this bill but I am confident that the members of the committee will stop this nonsense here and now. Please Kill This Bill.

Sincerely



Henry Jackson Dion